

GeoMAC

Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination

Background

GeoMAC is a real-time Internet mapping system allowing Wildland Fire Managers and the Public to pinpoint the location and size of existing wildfires using geospatial technologies via the User's browser.



Inception of GeoMAC

When flames consumed many acres of forest and rangeland throughout the western United States in August 2000, wildland fire managers needed nothing short of a miracle to control numerous fires across the country. The demand for fire resources exceeded the capabilities of national firefighting resources. Across the west, priorities were being set by geographic area fire coordination centers for allocating personnel based on life, safety, property, and protection of natural resources. Determining these factors requires more than the traditional paper tools--printed maps and situation reports often do not give a complete snap-shot of the affected areas. Rising to this challenge, the website named GeoMAC (Geospatial Multi Agency Coordination) was implemented.



Application Functionality

To give wildland fire managers near real-time information, wildfire perimeter telemetry is updated daily on the basis of input from incident intelligence sources, GPS data, IR imagery from fixed-wing aircraft and satellites. GeoMAC allows users to manipulate map information by zooming in at various scales using an ARC IMS web application. The user can view information on individual fires such as the fire name, current acreage and other fire status information, or the user can link to remote automated weather station data near the wildfire. Additional data layers such as temporary flight restrictions, wildland fire weather watches, red flag warnings, aircraft hazard maps and other critical fire analysis information are presently being added to GeoMAC.



Wildland Fire Information

GeoMAC is improving wildland fire-fighting information by:

- sharing the latest wildland fire information
- providing interactive, on-line maps
- displaying detailed information about where wildland fires are burning
- simplifying wildland fire decision making
- providing public access to the latest wildland fire information, especially where wildfires are near homes and businesses



GeoMAC Agency Alliance

Agencies

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

Private Industry Partners

- ESRI, ERDAS, Sun Microsystems and IBM Provides hardware and software support

For more information

Mapping Application

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